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PROGRAM Nightline

STATION WJLA TV
ABC Network

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SUBJECT Full Text

TED KOPPEL: ...There's no richer or easier target than the United States. We'll focus tonight on how secrets are kept and lost in the world's most open society. And on the day that a U. S. Air Force lieutenant went on trial for espionage, we'll discuss the subject with two former directors of the CIA, William Colby and Stansfield Turner.

ANNOUNCER: This is ABC News Nightline. Reporting from Washington, Ted Koppel.

KOPPEL: Good evening.

They force fed Christopher Boyce today after a 19 day hunger strike at the medical center for federal prisoners in Springfield, Missouri. Boyce is a convicted spy who's serving a 40 year sentence for selling secret satellite documents to the Soviet Union. He had said he'd rather die than spend the rest of his life in prison.

Here in Washington, meanwhile, the court-martial of Christopher Cooke got underway. He's the Air Force missile officer who'd been charged with passing secret information on to the Soviet embassy. If he is convicted, he could get over 50 years at hard labor.

Boyce and Cooke, if Cooke is found guilty, represent perhaps the oldest form of espionage -- find someone on the inside and get him to bring the information out. But espionage here in the United States takes on a great many other forms, because this is a society in which information is freely sold on the open market. Indeed, this is a society in which it is frequently given away.